

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A web content management system for updating web content, the web content management system comprising a web content engine configured to access a plurality of components used to define content associated with at least one web site, configured to determine whether one or more of the plurality of components has been modified, and configured to submit a workflow definition to a workflow process engine, wherein the workflow definition defines one or more ordered operations to be performed by at least one participant in the approval of the one or more modified components.

2. The web content management system of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of components form an ordered structure of the plurality of components and relationships between the plurality of components.

3. The web content management system of Claim 2, further comprising a repository for storing the plurality of components and the relationships.

4. The web content management system of Claim 1, wherein the web content engine is further configured to submit a dependent update workflow definition to the workflow process engine.

5. The web content management system of Claim 4, wherein the dependent update workflow definition defines one or more ordered operations to be performed by at least one participant in the rerendering of web pages incorporating the one or more modified components.

6. The web content management system of Claim 1, wherein the web content engine further comprises a rendering service configured to render the web site from the plurality of components.

7. The web content management system of Claim 1, wherein the web content engine further comprises a deployment service capable of deploying the web site to a target system.

8. The web content management system of Claim 7, wherein the deployment service deploys related components in a single transaction.

9. The web content management system of Claim 8, wherein if at least one component being deployed during the single transaction fails to properly deploy, the single transaction is deemed to have failed.

10. The web content management system of Claim 9, wherein the deployment service is capable of rolling back any failed single transaction.

11. The web content management system of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of components comprise an atomic component, a composite component, and a page component.

12. A web content management system comprising:

a web content engine configured to access a plurality of components defining content associated with at least one web site; and

a workflow process engine configured to access a plurality of workflow processes defining ordered operations to be performed on one or more of the plurality of components by at least one participant to render some or all of the at least one web site.

13. The web content management system of Claim 12, wherein at least one of the one or more workflow processes comprises a deployment operation.

14. The web content management system of Claim 13, wherein the deployment operation deploys related components in a single transaction.

15. The web content management system of Claim 14, wherein if at least one component being deployed fails to deploy correctly, the transaction is rolled back.

16. The web content management system of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of components comprise a plurality of atomic components defining at least a portion of content of a web site and a plurality of structured components defining at least a portion of structure of a web site that includes a reference to the atomic component and a structured component, wherein each structured component is deemed to be dependent on any component included, by reference, within the structured component.

17. The web content management system of Claim 16, wherein the plurality of structured components comprise at least a plurality of page components, wherein each page component defines structure and content of a web page.

18. A method of checking integrity of an update to a web site component that defines a portion of a website, comprising:

detecting an update of a web site component, and
executing a content approval workflow process to assess whether the updated web site component is approved.

19. The method of Claim 18, further comprising:

reviewing a plurality of component relationships to determine components that depend on the updated component; and
executing an appropriate dependent update workflow process.

20. The method of Claim 18, wherein the executing a content approval workflow process comprises executing a content approval workflow process that is capable of including at least one defined operation that asks a participant to accept, edit, or reject, the update to the web site component.

21. The method of Claim 18, wherein detecting an update of a web site component includes detecting an addition of a new component to an existing folder including web site components.

22. The method of Claim 18, wherein detecting an update of a web site component includes detecting a deletion of a component.

23. The method of Claim 18, wherein executing a content approval workflow process includes identifying at least one association between the updated component and at least one of a plurality of defined workflow processes.

24. The method of Claim 23, wherein identifying at least one association includes identifying at least one association between the updated component and at least one of a plurality of defined workflow processes based on membership, by the updated component, in a group of components associated with a defined workflow process.

25. The method of Claim 23, wherein identifying at least one association includes identifying more than one association and determining based on a criteria, which of the more than one associated content approval workflows to execute.

26. A method of checking integrity of an update to a web site component that defines a portion of a website, comprising:

detecting an update of a web site component, the web site component being one of a plurality of web site components defining structure and content of a web site, wherein the plurality of web site components are stored in a multi-level hierarchical structure;

reviewing a plurality of relationships to determine components that depend on the updated component; and

executing at least one operation on at least one of the determined dependent components, wherein the at least one executed operation relates to updating the at least one determined dependent component.